Dear Parents & Guardians:

As you know, last Friday was “Love Your Neighbor Literacy Day” and once again, we experienced Love on the Move, demonstrated by you, the committed parents of our school!” Heartfelt gratitude to our amazing Reading Resource Teacher and Home & School Leader and their team who took time out of their busy schedules to come and ensure the day went as planned. The day started with the leaders and parents stuffing bags with snacks and a few 8th graders assisting with distribution to classrooms. Each of the teachers set up the classroom atmosphere so the students could enjoy and benefit from the special reading experience. I was privileged to have an opportunity to check-in on some of the classes and capture photos of the activity. I am sure you’ve gotten reports about the day from the kids. I think they all had a wonderful time/experience. I would like to invite you to visit our face book page to get a glimpse of the different classroom atmosphere. Again, thank you all for your contribution to make this year’s parent collaboration for Literacy Day and Black History Month a success!

March-National Reading & Women’s History Month: During the month of March RMES will continue its emphasis and celebration of reading. Please continue to collaborate with your teachers to develop lifelong learners by either reading to and/or with your child/ren (as often as possible) and encourage the importance of reading by facilitating time and opportunity for them to read, every day. During this month, help your child to add to their reading genre by choosing books about women/women in history. “There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” (Jacqueline Kennedy).

The following is one of the special reading activities planned for Reading Month:

- **Special Guest Reader**: RMES has accepted a request from the office of Rep. Brad Paquette for this State leader to come and read to the students during National Reading Month. State Rep. Paquette’s visit is scheduled for Friday, March 11, 2022 when he will share the gift of reading with students of the lower grades. Rep. Paquette, a former teacher, describes himself as a neighbor, educator, and active citizen. He holds a Bachelor’s in Political Science/Pre-Law from Northern Michigan University and a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) from Andrews University. We are looking forward to having Rep. Paquette, one of our community leaders at our school.

- **RMES Principal’s Reading Challenge (PRC)**: March is the last month for our Principal’s Reading Challenge. The Challenge ends with the 3rd Quarter. Deadline for Reading Log submissions is March 28. With intentional push for the reading these past
months, as we worked together to provide a variety of opportunities for students to engage in reading, I am looking forward to seeing increased motivation for books and reading across all grades. “There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” (Jacqueline Kennedy)

Assembly, March 11—Sports: For the month of March, the student body will come together for two special assembly presentations. The first on this Wednesday, March 2, 2022 will feature a Sports-related theme, when Andre Fluellen, former NFL player and Sports World motivational speaker will be the Special Guest at RMES. Fluellen was a star player for the following teams the Detroit Lions, Miami Dolphins, (2012) /Chicago Bears (2013), and Buffalo Bills (2015). He ended his pro-career where he started, with Detroit Lions in 2015. Coach Lonto, our PE Teacher is the coordinating this Sports-related program for our students.

Assembly, March 16—Modern Language Classes-Highlighted: For the first time, the teachers who teach the Modern Languages, Mrs. Wamack (Spanish) and Mrs. Park and Mr. Dong Chan (Korean) at RMES will coordinate to highlight what students across the grades (K-8) have been learning and can share about the languages (verbal & written forms) and culture of some of the native speaking people & places that they have studied. Spanish is taught to all grades (K-8), while Korean and French are offered as elective Mini-courses for 7 & 8 grade. We are anticipating a rich and exciting program that will raise the awareness of the student body about the modern languages and culture that are taught at RMES and inspire their interest to know and learn more.

AA & RMES Visitor’s Day/Move-Up Day: Once again, I am soliciting your help to promote RMES Visitor’s Day to your family members, friends, and neighbors. On this day, Tuesday, March 8, 2022, AA & RMES will collaborate to have students move up to their next grade level and open our schools for visitors. At RMES, we usually invite potential students of Grades 1-8 to come and experience the classroom environment for half or the full day. Students of Grades K-6 will visit from 8:30 – 11:30 (lunchtime), while students of Grades 7/8 spend the entire day (8:30 – 3:30). Additionally, RMES 8th Grade students move over to Andrews Academy where they, also, spend the full day, including dismissal from AA. Please let us know if you have questions about Move-up Day.

RMES COVID-19 Updates-Will Be Re-assessed After Spring Break

Please note that given updated information that we have received from Andrews University and after considering the unique needs of our students in the elementary school environment, RMES will be continuing with our current COVID-19 safety protocols, which require masks worn indoors, physical distancing, and the practice of health and hygiene habits, including, washing & sanitizing hands and disinfecting furniture. RMES will reassess our mask wearing policy after Spring Break, at the end of March. We solicit your continued prayers, support, and adherence to help maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for the students, faculty and staff at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and encouragement through these uncertain times. With your support we remain committed to doing our best to maintain a healthy, safe, teaching
and learning environment for our students, staff, and families. God is keeping His promise not to leave nor forsake us and we are grateful. We will continue to monitor the changing environment and the now growing hope that surrounds the current situation with the global COVID-19 pandemic, as it relates to case trends on our university and school (RMES & AA) campuses, as well as in MI/Berrien Community.

**Highway to Happiness-Mental Health Tuesdays:** Just to let you know that our mental health education for the students (K-8) with Dr. Leanne Miller is still taking place. The sessions are scheduled at two-week intervals and instruction rotates among the grade levels, either in group or individual grades. The next session will be March 1 with K-2, 3-4 and 5th. Please keep Dr. Miller in prayer as she ministers to our children.

**RMES/PMC Grow Group:** This is another invitation to join us on Thursday mornings to pray for the students, faculty, staff and families at RMES. We start at 8:15 sharp. If you have to be at work, we will let you pray first and leave. We meet in the Extend Ed room. Look forward to seeing you this week.

**Important Upcoming Events:**

- **Principal's Reading Challenge**—Ongoing
- **March is National Reading & Women’s History Month**
- **March 8**—AA & RMES Move-up Day (8:30 AM)
- **March 9**—MI Conference Elementary Music Festival
- **March 11**—Sports-Centered Assembly (10:30 AM)
- **March 16**—Modern Language Classes Assembly (8:30 AM)
- **March 17**—Drama Class Event (TBA)
- **Weather-Related School Closing:** Reminder that for weather-related closing RMES follows Berrien RESA.

**Verse for the Week:**

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

**Quote of the Week:**

“Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.”

Marilyn Jager Adams

In His service,

Dr. Savory